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Decontrol of procurement and prices of groundnut oil cake.

* 20 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the de-control of procurement and prices of groundnut oil cake has been ordered;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that, after de-control, there has been abnormal rise in the price of the cake and what the zonal prices are;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that some restrictions are still imposed on the free movement of the groundnut oil cake;

(*d*) whether the control of movements has also contributed to increase in the price of oil cake; and

(*e*) whether the Government have reviewed the whole position so that oil cake may be made easily available to agriculturists at reasonable rates?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The de-control was ordered with effect from 15th January 1949.

" (*b*) There has been a rise in prices only at certain centres. The prices are published every fortnight in the Statistical supplement to the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

" (*c*) It is a fact that movements are regulated. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Note issued by the Government on the subject on 30th May 1949. A copy of the Press Note [a] is placed on the table of the House.

" (*d*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*e*) The matter is under consideration."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know the causes which have contributed to the increase in the prices of oil cake, if it is not the control of movement? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There were certain irregularities on the part of the mills. In order to regulate the whole thing, de-control has been resorted to."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" This is usually taken as the first item of the day. Evidently the hon. Member is not aware of it. As a special case, I allow it now."

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution :—

' *this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib who was a Member of the Madras Legislative Council and the Central Legis-*

a Printed as appendix on page 343 infra.

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lative Assembly and requests the Hon. the President to convey its sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.'

" I do not think, Sir, that anybody in this House or the province knows Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib more than the Hon. the Leader of the House Dr. T. S. S. Rajan who comes from the same district. Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib was perhaps the oldest political leader of our province. He lived up to 100 years. He was a member of the Madras Legislative Council from 1910 to 1913. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly for a quarter of a century. He worked for the uplift of the poor people in the south. He did much work in the cause of education. He was called the Sir Syed Ahmed Khan of South India. He was a great nationalist till his death. His views of course were not liked by some people. He was a gentleman and he was always consistent in his views. He had always felt that there should be unity among the different communities in the province. He did much towards the cause of Hindu Muslim unity. In his death, this province has lost a great leader. He was admired not only by people in the south but also by the great national leaders of north India. He was a member of the Swaraj Party under the Leadership of Pandit Motilal Nehru. It is necessary that when such a great man dies, this House should place on record its sympathy with the bereaved family and communicate the same to the members of the family. As we have got much work to do, I do not want to say anything more on this occasion. I feel, Sir, that a resolution of this kind is necessary and I request you, Sir, to allow me to move the resolution. I move the resolution :—

' this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the demise of Moulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib who was a member of the Madras Legislative Council and the Central Legislative Assembly and requests the Hon. President to convey its sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.' "

* JANAB K. UPPI :—" Mr. President, I wholeheartedly associate myself with the resolution. I was a colleague of the late Moulvi Syed Murtuza for four years in the Central Assembly. Long before that, he roused the Muslims of the Province during 1920. It was he who along with Sri C. Rajagopalachari, the present Governor-General and the present Leader of the House Dr. Rajan, toured throughout the province and roused the people during the Rowlat Act agitation days. For four years we were together in the Assembly. We were also staying together.

3-15 p.m. " Sir, he was a man by himself; I should say by habits, he was a saint. He was not a politician, but he was a saint. He was a very learned man; not only that; he practised Islam. He always used to be surrounded by poor orphans; he always had half a dozen orphans around him; he was feeding them and looking after their education. You can understand how very charitable he was, how very helpful he was, if I mention an incident. While we were in Delhi, he came to visit a friend; he came into the room of the

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friend, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, and I too was there. As soon as he came in, the other gentleman humorously said : 'I think I will have to pay a few chips for the hon. Murtuza's visit.' Then he laughed, and I asked him why. He said that whenever Hazrat came in, there were half a dozen or at least one or two orphans by his side and he would have to give a few chips. That was the way he was doing service. All the money he was getting, he was spending on feeding them, giving them toffees, and on educating them. He used to go about begging to help poor children. He was a staunch nationalist. At the same time, Sir, he was an educationist. He was one of the few who were educated in English in his days. Not only that; he did not stop there; he started schools for educating others. Many young men in this presidency owe their education to him and owe their position to him—that was the man. He was a saint, he was a sage, he was a politician and he was also a very all-round man. Sir, we have lost him; the only consolation is, he has lived to a ripe old age to give us his advice. May God bless that his soul shall rest in peace. Sir, I associate myself with this resolution."

Dr. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, I rise to associate myself with this resolution; I heartily give it my support."

The Hon. Dr. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, as the Leader of this House, I associate myself with the resolution that has been moved and seconded in the House. Coming from Trichinopoly as I do, I cannot but speak about the departed gentleman and say a few words about what I know of him. Compared in years, he was much older than I am; he lived a hundred years, which no man has lived in this province, particularly in the south. But more than his age, his capacity for service was unbounded. He was born a poor man, but he was a Moulvi right through. He spent all his hours in the mosque mostly; in fact the mosque was his place of residence; and whenever we found him not in his house, we used to rush to the mosque since we were sure we would find him there. He was with me in the Indian Legislative Assembly when the Congress made up its mind to contest the elections. Of the representatives who went from the south, from our province, he, our Premier, myself and the late Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar were colleagues—we all represented this province in the Indian Legislative Assembly. Mouvli Murtuza Sahib was a very very pleasant man. I do not think he ever got a temper or got angry with any one. He was a clean sober person, was thoughtful and careful about what he said and what he spoke. He was, as has been expressed ably, not only a mere nationalist by word of mouth, but by feeling he was a thorough nationalist. He lived through the stormy days when there was only strife in our country and the question of Hindu-Muslim tension loomed very large in public eyes, but it must be said to his credit that he kept an even temper, and whenever he gave the weight of his support, it was always for a just cause. Trichinopoly being a fairly substantial Muslim centre, it was due to his influence

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and to his presence in public life there that there was not much of a strife between Hindus and Muslims in that town. He was immensely popular and there was not one who could stand against him in any election. He was in the Municipal Council, he was in the local Legislative Council, he was in the Imperial Assembly. In all those contests, he was unique and supreme, and nobody dared contest his candidature. In fact, he took part in almost every public movement worthy of the name in Trichinopoly. I cannot forget his wholehearted sympathies under Gandhiji's leadership, with the Khilafat movement in those days. Four of us toured South India in those days on behalf of the Swaraj party for the Khilafat movement. Moulvi Murtuza Sahib was the first to join us. He kept us company right throughout the tour and in spite of indifferent health he would not budge an inch from the task he had undertaken. He was a man of few wants, had determined courage and was of strong conviction; he stood four-square against all winds of opposition that blew against him. His poverty did not affect his public career and in fact it is not too much to say that he was loved by all, Hindu and Muslim alike, in Trichinopoly. I know he took to travelling many miles a day during the hot sun and in all conditions of weather; and with indifferent health, he went right through the tour, a very strenuous one in which younger men than he felt weak and tired; he won't complain and went right through, all on account of the devotion and the love he had for India and the land he was born in. He was really a very loveable man in private life. Nobody went to him and got a refusal of anything he could possibly give or do. No doubt he might have been more powerful and more influential if he only cared to; but the path of rectitude and morals always got him love from friends and politicians, who knew him as one who never wanted personal aggrandisement. He was very much interested in Muslim education and in Trichinopoly he was looked up to by all Muslims for the support he ably gave them. With Hindus he was equally popular in Trichinopoly and that is exactly the place of all places I knew—and Syed Murtuza Sahib was respected there by all people alike. His career and life are worthy of emulation, and I am sorry that although he had lived a full hundred years, he has not lived longer still to carry on that beneficial influence which he wielded over all the people in Trichinopoly. Therefore, Sir, personally I associate myself with the feelings of his family and of his people who have lost tremendously in him; and as the Leader of this House also, I associate myself entirely with the sentiments expressed by my friends. I also hope this will be conveyed to his family."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Though I am not personally acquainted with the person whose death we are discussing at present, from what I have heard of him, it seems clear that the country has lost a great man and society a good servant. I heartily associate myself with the sentiments expressed here, and I request the House to stand and pass the resolution."

The resolution was put and passed, the House standing.

III.—MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages received from His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated 12th November 1949 :—

' In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949.

' In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1949, in the Madras Legislative Council.

' In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949, in the Madras Legislative Council.

' In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council, the consideration of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1949 '."

IV.—SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949–50.

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I present, Sir, the Demands for Grants for further expenditure and the Detailed Supplementary Estimates thereof for the year 1949–50.

" As stated in the introductory Memorandum to the Supplementary statement, the demands are all for token sums in respect of all schemes which are treated as new service and which have been sanctioned or approved by the Government during this year till about the middle of October last. This includes grow-more-food schemes sanctioned against the lump sum provision already made in the budget. I do not propose to go through the details of the demands at present. Necessary information will be found in the detailed supplementary estimates laid on the Table of the House."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" The discussion on these will be taken up on the 21st of this month. We will now proceed with the debate on the cyclone havoc."

V.—DISCUSSION *RE* BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sri M. NARAYANA RAO :—" I was telling the difficulties experienced in the procurement of paddy . . ." 3-30 p.m.